

2 March 1987

FILE ONLY

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FORMER CIA DIRECTOR RELEASED FROM HOSPITAL
WASHINGTON

William J. Casey, the former CIA director who resigned last month after a cancerous tumor was removed from his brain, was released from Georgetown University Hospital, a spokeswoman said Monday.

Cynthia Byers, a hospital spokeswoman, said Casey was discharged on Saturday, nearly 11 weeks after he was struck by brain seizures and rushed to the hospital.

"I am assuming he was in good condition since he was discharged," Ms. Byers said.

Casey, 73, a close friend of President Reagan, underwent surgery Dec. 18 for removal of a brain tumor that proved to be malignant. The former CIA director resigned Feb. 2.

CIA spokeswoman Kathy Pherson said she would have no comment on Casey.

Reagan nominated Robert M. Gates, Casey's deputy, to be the next CIA director, but withdrew the nomination Monday in the face of a bruising Senate confirmation fight.

Several senators said they wanted to complete hearings into the Iran-Contra affair before acting on the nomination of Gates, who held top positions at the agency in 1985 and 1985.

Reagan said he accepted with regret Gates' request that his name be withdrawn.

Casey, who headed the CIA at a time that weapons were shipped secretly to Iran and profits diverted to Nicaragua, has testified at length about the case in private hearings before Congress.

He was stricken on the eve of a scheduled appearance before the Senate Intelligence Committee.

Bob Havel, a spokesman for the special House panel that is investigating the Iran-Contra matter, said the committee has not drawn up a complete list of witnesses yet.

But he assumed House members would eventually want to talk to Casey.